

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LA

SUBJECT: LAO REFUGEE PROGRAM

REF: BANGKOK 126, 3348, 3349, 3929; STATE 17806, 25672,

35192, 42181

1. BASED ON RECENT TELECONS, ORM UNDERSTANDS THAT 2732 LAO REFUGEES IN THAILAND HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBERS. QUOTA FOR LAO IS 3466, OF WHICH 50 HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR WORLD WIDE CASES. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW BY SEPTEL SHORTLY WHETHER ANY OF THESE 50 CAN BE REALLOCATED TO THAILAND.

2. AS REPORTED BANGKOK 126, 150 A NUMBERS HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR FUTHER URGENT CASES IN THAILAND AND 200 PLUS 50 FOR VIENTANE. OF THIS TOTAL OF 400; BANGKOK 3929 AND OTHER CABLES INDICATE ABOUT 20 HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED FOR URGENT CASES, INCLUDING CHILDREN BORN TO REFUGEES WITH A

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NUMBERS, AND ABOUT 40 FOR LATE ARRIVALS FROM VIENTIANE. WE

ASSUME THAT THESE RESERVE NUMBERS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED ARE INCLUDED IN TOTAL OF 2732 A NUMBERS WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED, ACCORDING TO TELCONS. PLEASE CONFIRM IF ASSUMPTION CORRECT.

3. VIETIANE AND OTHER ADDRESSES SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT AND INFORM ORM OF MINIMUM NUMBER WHICH SHOULD STILL BE RESERVED FOR VIENTIANE UNDER CURRENT LAO PROGRAM. WE WOULD HOPE

THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN TOTAL OF ABOUT 210 WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS STILL RESERVED, NOW THAT ABOUT 40 HAVE BEEN USED. EVENTUALLY WE HOPE TO SHIFT THIS MINIMUM RESERVE FROM CURRENT LAO PROGRAM TO EXPANDED PROGRAM AS SOON AS WE OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAM. UNTIL THEN, HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM RESERVE FOR VIENTIANE WITHIN CURRENT LAO PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD BE FIGURE AGREED UPON BY ADDRESSEES.

4. IN SUMMARY, OUT OF 3466 QUOTA, 2732 A NUMBERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED, 50 ARE STILL RESERVED WORLDWIDE FOR TIME BEING AND ABOUT 210 ARE STILL RESERVED FOR VIENTIANE. THIS LEAVES AT LEAST 474 A NUMBERS WHICH SHOULD BE ISSUED ASAP. INS/CO HAS INFORMED US THAT INS OFFICER YOUNG FROM HONG KONG PLANS ARRIVE BANGKOK MARCH 7 TO ISSUE THESE REMAINING LAO A NUMBERS. HE PLANS STAY AT LEAST FIVE DAYS OR LONGER IF NECESSARY TO COMPLETE JOB. HE ALSO PREPARED BEGIN WORK ON EXPANDED PROGRAM IF WE OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE BEFORE HE LEAVES.

5. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CLEAR UP LAO PROGRAM TO EXTENT POSSIBLE BEFORE EXPANDED PROGRAM9EGINS IN ORDER AVOID CONFUSION. POST SHOULD THEREFORE PROVIDE INS OFFICER NAMES OF AT LEAST 474 REFUGEES TO OBTAIN A NUMBERS, PLUS WHATEVER ADDITIONAL NUMBER VIENTIANE AGREES TO RELEASE FROM RESERVE.

6. RE QUERIES ABOUT NEW SPOUSES IN BANGKOK'S 3349 AND 3348 (UDORN 457), INS/CO HAS AGREED THAT A NUMBERS CAN BE ISSUED TO SPOUSES OUT OF TWO BLOCKS OF 50 A NUMBERS FOR NEW BORN CHILDREN AND 50 A NUMBERS FOR SPECIAL CASES PREVIOUSLY SENT POSTS IN DEPTELS 17806 AND 25672, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPLIED ONLY TO LAO REFUGEES. SEPTEL WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS ON HANDLING OF SIMILAR CAMBODIAN AND VIENNAMESE CASES. WE FULLY SUPPORT RESTRICTIONS IN PARA 4 OF BANGKOK 3348 THAT ONLY NEW SPOUSE CAN OBTAIN ONE OF THESE THESE SPECIAL A NUMBERS AND SPOUSE CAN NOT RPT NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY ON HIS OR HER RELATIVES.

7. LATEST LAO WEEKLY STATUS REPORT IN BANGKOK 3929 SHOWS

38 CASES OF 190 REFUGEES HAVE A NUMBERS BUT DO NOT YET HAVE VISA FALCON CLEARANCES. ORM RECORDS SHOW ONLY SEVEN CASES WHICH WE KNOW HAVE A NUMBER WHICH ARE STILL AWAITING CLEARANCE- AS FOR AS WE ARE AWARE, ALL OTHERS WITH A NUMBERS WERE CLEARED BY STATE 42181 AND PREVIOUS CABLES.

8. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO ORM RECORDS AS OF FEB 24, WE HAD SENT NAMES OF 2929 REFUGEES TO VOLAGS, OF WHOM 1207 HAD ARRIVED, 1113 HAD BEEN VERIFIED AND TRAVELED AUTHORIZED, AND 653 WERE STILL WITH VOLAGS TO FIND SPONSORS. TOTAL 2929 IS ALMOST 200 MORE THAN POST TOTAL OF 2732 WITH A NUMBERS. WE NEED TO KNOW WHICH OF THESE CASES WE SHOULD TELL VOLAGS TO CONTINUE WORKING

9. WE ASSUME THAT ALL REFUGEES WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN US HAVE A NUMBERS. BUT, AS REQUESTED STATE 35192, POST SHOULD SEND BY IMMEDIATE CABLE NAMES OF ALL HEADS OF FAMILY STILL IN THAILAND WHO HAVE A NUMBERS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER VERIFICATION CABLES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OR NOT. POST CABLE SHOULD ALSO SHOW EITHER BIO DATA OR VISA FALCON CABLE NUMBERS TO CROSS CHECK NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY.

10. IN ADDITION POST SHOULD INFORM ORM SOONEST IF IT RECEIVES VERIFICATION CABLE FOR REFUGEE WHO IS NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED TO RECEIVE A NUMBER SO THAT WE CAN TELL VOLAG TO SWITCH SPONSOR TO ANOTHER REFUGEE WHO DOES HAVE A NUMBER.

11. FINALLY, AS INS OFFICER ISSUES REMAINING A NUMBERS, POST SHOULD SEND ORM BY IMMEDIATE CABLE NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILY WHO RECEIVE THEM ALONG WITH VISA FALCON AND BIO DATA CABLE NUMBERS. IF FALCON AND BIO CABLES HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED, POST SHOULD DO SO ASAP. KISSINGER
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